



**The U.S. Department of State  
Middle East Partnership Initiative**



*Announces the*

**Leaders for Democracy Fellowship 2015  
(English Program)**

The MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program is a three-month program in the United States designed to give 20-25 young civic leaders and democracy activists from the Middle East and North Africa an opportunity to gain academic skills, practical experience as well as networking opportunities with like-minded peers and professionals.

The program runs from March until the end of June 2015. It begins with six weeks of academic coursework at the Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in Syracuse, New York, where fellows focus on the concepts of leadership, democracy, communication, civil society, and conflict resolution among others. Fellows complete relevant seminars and workshops that include theoretical debates as well as active, practical skills-building sessions.

After completing the academic portion of the program, participants engage in a seven-week professional assignment with a political, non-governmental, or public policy organization in Washington, DC. Through this program component, participants gain a practical understanding of the interactions between government and civil society, while also gaining valuable knowledge, skills, and professional contacts to benefit their professional pursuits in their home countries.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

The program is open to young professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 with a bachelor's degree and English language fluency. Fellows should be able to function at full capacity in an English-speaking academic and professional environment. Applicants should have five years of work experience, as well as demonstrated leadership skills and a desire to apply the skills they have learned during the fellowship to benefit an organization, sector, or specific community. Fellows' travel to the United States must be unaccompanied.

*For more information about the Middle East Partnership Initiative, please go to: [www.mepi.state.gov](http://www.mepi.state.gov).*



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**Interested applicants should submit *in English* the following in their application package:**

- updated resume
- brief biography of no more than 200 words that describes their personal background and professional experience as it relates to democracy building in their country of origin. The biography should include their current position, recent professional affiliations, and any noteworthy accomplishments (such as articles published or awards received).
- essay of no more than 1,000 words, written in English, responding to the following questions:
  - The Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program selects qualified and dedicated individuals from throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region who have demonstrated their potential to be leaders in their respective communities. Please tell us why you think you have the potential to be a real leader in your country or local community.
  - What do you hope to gain from this program and what are your plans to apply the experience it offers?

**\*\*Deadline for submitting applications is November 30, 2014\*\***

**Please send completed applications to [MEPIAlgiers@state.gov](mailto:MEPIAlgiers@state.gov). Competitive applicants will be contacted to participate in a mandatory interview.**